New Act to Replace the Telegraph Act

1255. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are in the process of replacing the Indian Telegraph Act by a new state-of-the art Act called the telecommunication act; and

(b) if so, the salient feature of the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 has been amended from time to time to cater to the changing requirements in this sector. Keeping in view the major changes and technological developments in the Telecom Sector, this enactment is being reviewed by a group constituted under the Chairmanship of the Finance Minister. The Group is likely to give its report by the end of March, 2000.

Opening of new Post Offices in North-Eastern Region

1256. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up any new post office in the NER particularly in Hilly areas of the Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the likely time by which it is to be established; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The target for opening of 40 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 3 Departmental Sub Post Offices has been fixed for North Eastern Region for the current Annual Plan 1999-2000 out of which 13 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 3 Departmental Sub Post Offices have already been opened in Hilly areas by redeployment of posts, in the financial year 1999-2000.

(b) The details of the above mentioned 13 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 3 Departmental Sub Post Offices is shown in Statement (*See* below). Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices are opened subject to the fulfilment